

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (New) A process for manufacturing a monofilament suture from a block copolymer comprising from about 50 to about 80 weight percent glycolide, and about 20 to about 50 weight percent trimethylene carbonate, the method comprising:
 - a) extruding the copolymer to provide a molten monofilament;
 - b) quenching the molten monofilament to provide a solidified monofilament;
 - c) drawing the solidified monofilament through a first oven maintained at a temperature of about 25°C. to about 35° C. at a draw ratio of about 4.8:1 to about 8.5:1;
 - d) drawing the monofilament through a second oven maintained at a temperature of about 110° C. to about 120° C. at a draw ratio of about 1.25:1 to about 1.50:1;
 - e) drawing the monofilament through a third oven maintained at a temperature of about 120° C. to about 140° C. at a draw ratio of about 0.7:1 to about 0.8:1; and
 - f) annealing the monofilament.
3. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the step of extruding the copolymer comprises extruding the copolymer at a temperature from about 180°C. to about 225°C.
4. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the step of quenching the molten monofilament comprises utilizing a quench bath at a temperature from about 18°C. to about 40°C.

5. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the step of drawing the solidified monofilament through the first oven comprises drawing at a draw ratio of about 5.5:1 to about 7.5:1.

6. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the step of drawing the solidified monofilament through the second oven comprises drawing at a draw ratio of about 1.1:1 to about 5:1.

7. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the overall draw ratio is from about 6.6:1 to about 10.0:1.

8. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the step of annealing the monofilament comprises subjecting the monofilament to temperatures ranging from about 40°C. to about 125°C.

9. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein relaxation occurs during annealing.

10. (New) The process of claim 9 wherein the monofilament recovers to within about 80 to about 97 percent of its original length during annealing.

11. (New) The process of claim 9 wherein the monofilament recovers to within about 95 percent of its original length during annealing.

12. (New) A suture made by the process of claim 1.

13. (New) A process for manufacturing a monofilament suture from a block copolymer comprising from about 50 to about 80 weight percent glycolide, and about 20 to about 50 weight percent trimethylene carbonate, the method comprising:

a) extruding the copolymer at a temperature from about 180°C. to about 225°C. to provide a molten monofilament;

b) quenching the molten monofilament in a quench bath at a temperature from about 18°C. to about 40°C. to provide a solidified monofilament;

c) drawing the solidified monofilament through a first oven maintained at a temperature of about 25°C. to about 35° C. at a draw ratio of about 5.5:1 to about 7.5:1;

d) drawing the monofilament through a second oven maintained at a temperature of about 110° C. to about 120° C. at a draw ratio of about 1.25:1 to about 1.50:1;

e) drawing the monofilament through a third oven maintained at a temperature of about 120° C. to about 140° C. at a draw ratio of about 0.7:1 to about 0.8:1; and

f) annealing the monofilament at temperatures ranging from about 40°C. to about 125°C.

14. (New) The process of claim 9 wherein the overall draw ratio is from about 6.6:1 to about 10.0:1.

15. (New) A suture made by the process of claim 9.

16. (New) A needled suture comprising a suture made by the process of claim 1.

17. (New) A suture as in claim 11 further comprising a medico-surgically useful substance selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial agents and growth promoting factors.

18. (New) A method of securing tissue of comprising
providing a needled suture, wherein the suture is made by a process in accordance with claim 1;
passing the needled suture through tissue; and
securing the suture.